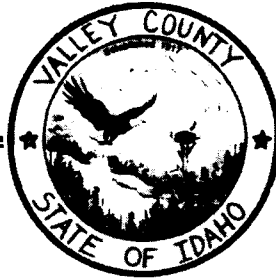


Valley County Board of County Commissioners

0547

P. O. Box 737 / 219 North Main Street
Cascade, Idaho 83611

TEL 208-382-4297
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TERRY F. GESTRIN
Chairman of the Board

F. PHILLIP DAVIS
Commissioner

RECEIVED BY
AND WILDLIFE
GRIZZLY BEAR
COORDINATORS Office

THOMAS W. KERR
Commissioner

LELAND G. HEINRICH
Clerk

November 4, 1997

NOV 10 1997

Bitterroot Grizzly Bear EIS
P.O. Box 5127
Missoula, MT 59806

Our Public Servants:

It is apparent to us that reintroduction of the grizzly bear in our forests would provide absolutely no direct benefit to our constituents. It is our opinion that "common sense" should be reintroduced into the decision making process.

1 We can not be a party to knowingly increasing a risk to human life in our forests. The Payette and Boise National Forests estimate 626,100 visit days for their area and it is estimated that 90 percent of those visit days are by non-residents.

It appears to be impossible to train and educate the grizzly bear to stay within his allotted corridor and we are certain this will lead to confrontation with human beings.

2 Our ecosystem is currently in balance, except for the health of our forests and we see this reintroduction as a subtle means to restrict multiple use of our public lands. More and more restrictions and regulations are preventing multiple use, particularly the normal harvesting of timber which is supposedly guaranteed to us by the Forest Organic Act.

If natural resource dependent communities are denied access to their resources, where else can they turn to maintain their native social and economic structure. We are told to improve conditions for tourists and start basing our economy on recreation, but then the reintroduction of the grizzly bear will definitely curtail the accessibility of our recreation based amenities.

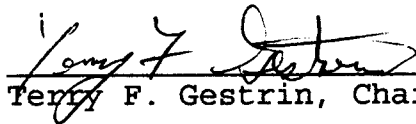
3 Our state and county is currently fighting for the life of salmon and steelhead, yet your plan to reintroduce grizzly bears can cost us millions of dollars in loss of other endangered species.

As in any decision making process, "pros" and "cons" must be considered. We urge you to list the itemized list of benefits

alongside the itemized list of detriments, reintroduce "common sense" and it would be an easy decision to see that alternative Number 4, "No Action", can be your only logical conclusion.

4 | We further believe that since local governments were never contacted for their input during this scoping process, that any or all action that you may take will be lacking any specific legal authority.

We thank you for this opportunity to comment and would urge you to let our current ecosystem grow and thrive as it is today.


Terry F. Gestrin, Chairman


F. Phillip Davis, Commissioner


Thomas W. Kerr, Commissioner

cc: Governor Phil Batt
Association of Idaho Counties
Idaho Congressional Delegation